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NIGHT OF THE OWLS

BATMAN

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JONATHAN
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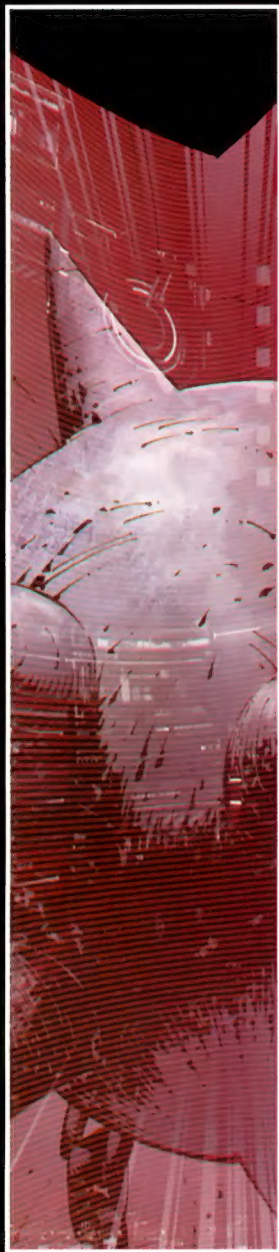
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Digital Copy
Inside!

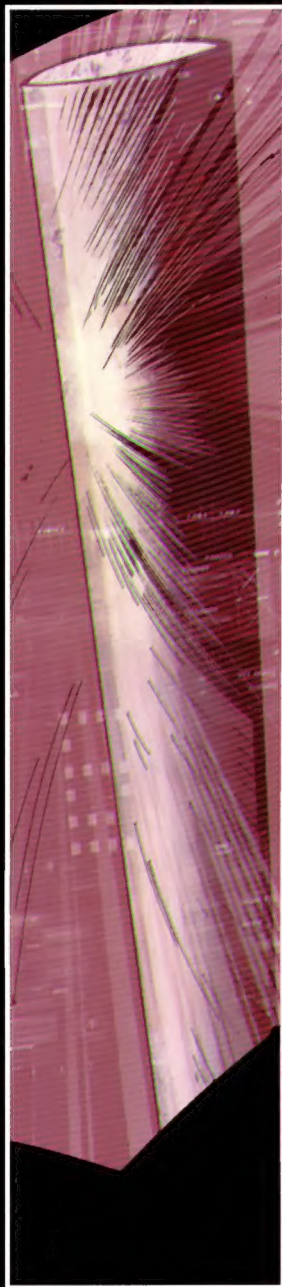
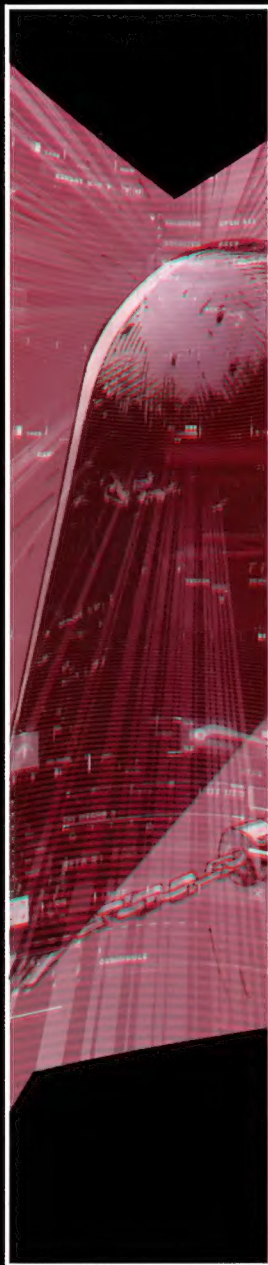
The first members of my family to live in the manor were Solomon and Joshua Wayne--brothers. They bought the house in 1855.

But they didn't move in until two years later.



The reason was **bats**.

A massive infestation of bats in the cave system beneath the land.



They brought in a chiroptologist from Gotham University, and according to him, to get rid of the bats, they'd have to introduce a **predator** into the cave.

So the Wayne brothers did.



They carted in all sorts of birds, from Peregrine Falcons to kestrels, and unleashed them in different sections of the cave.

The most effective killers of bats, though, were the **tiger owls**.

My ancestors let owls loose in the cave...

NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 7:51 PM...

...and within a year, all
the bats were gone.

ALFRED. HOW
ARE WE DOING ON
TEMPERATURE?

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in

NIGHT of the OWLS

I'M
DROPPING IT
AS FAST AS
POSSIBLE,
SIR.

SCOTT SNYDER
writer

GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION
inker

FED
PLASCENCIA
colorist

RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY B
lettering

KATIE KUBERT
asst. editor

MIKE MARTS
editor

CAPULLO and
FED PLASCENCIA
cover

DALE KEOWN and
FED PLASCENCIA
variant cover

Batman created
by
BOB KANE



IT
NEEDS TO BE
FASTER.

IT SHOULD DIP
BELOW ZERO IN NO
MORE THAN A MINUTE.
DROP TO NEGATIVE
TWENTY, MAYBE EVEN
THIRTY, IN UNDER FIVE
MINUTES.

BY THEN THE RESTORATIVE
COMPOUND IN THE TALONS'
CELLS SHOULD BEGIN TO
FREEZE. BUT SIR, I *IMPLORE*
YOU, COME BACK INSIDE
THE ARMORY!

THEY'RE
STRONG, ALFRED.
THE DOORS WON'T
KEEP THEM OUT
LONG ENOUGH.

THE
DOORS
MAY!

NO.



MASTER
BRUCE, THE TALONS'
STRENGTH, THEIR HEALING
CAPABILITIES, PLEASE,
FOR YOU IT MEANS
CERTAIN--

WHAT
IT MEANS,
ALFRED...



...IS THAT
I CAN PLAY
ROUGH FOR
ONCE.



My suit is built for war.

It's made of meta-aramid fibers of my own design, tougher than Kevlar.



Made to withstand burning heat and freezing cold-- temperatures as low as the Arctic winter.



It uses a semi-solid flow micro battery. It has enough oxygen for weeks.



Meaning, it's built for battle in the most alien territories on Earth.



And I'm wearing it here. In my own home.



COME ON!



I SAID COME ON, YOU UNDERD SONS OF--



Alfred is right...

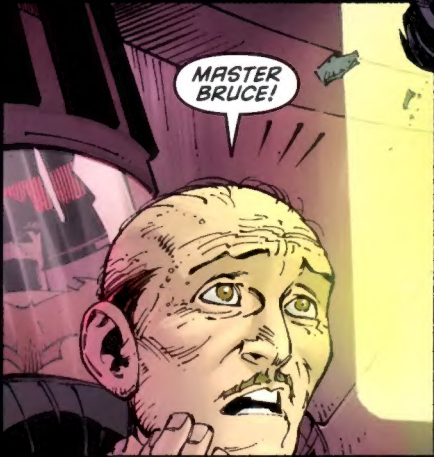


CLANG

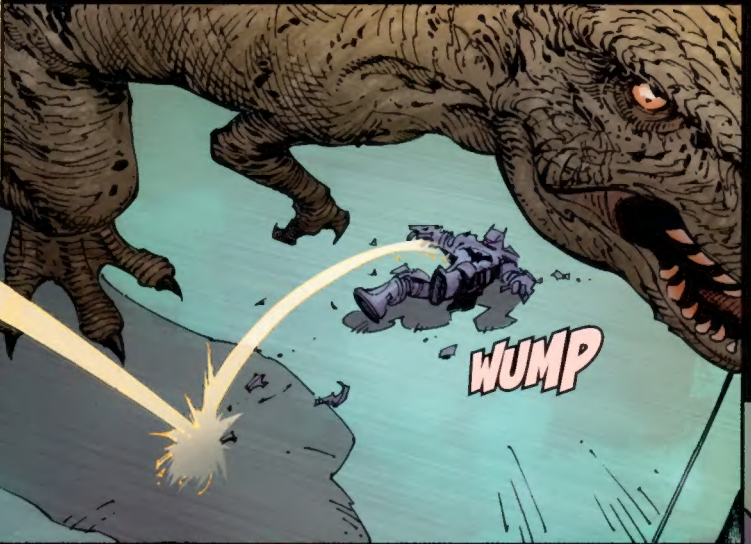


...they'll get through the suit, the Talons.

Because in a way, they already have.



MASTER BRUCE!



WUMP



HE'S DOWN, BROTHERS!

GET HIM!



THIS IS IT, BRUCE WAYNE.

NOTHING LEFT TO KEEP US OUT. NO MORE BARRIERS.



THE COURT ALWAYS FINDS A WAY INTO YOUR HOME!



YOU WAYNES ALWAYS TRY, THOUGH, DON'T YOU?



WELL, GO AHEAD! TRY WHATEVER YOU LIKE!



MORE GATES. MORE ALARMS.

(HEH) MAYBE TRY A GUARD DOG.



ACTUALLY, ~~SKOFF~~ I ALREADY HAVE ONE.







ARMORY
DOORS--

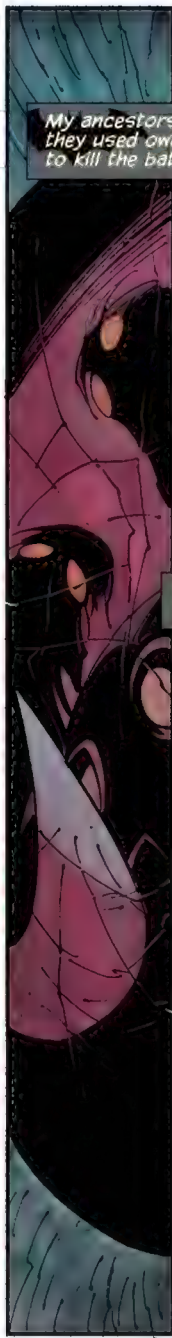
NO! OVERRIDE
ARMORY DOORS!
LOCK DOWN!



NO!
MASTER
BRUCE!



MASTER
BRUCE, YOU'RE
CRASHING!



My ancestors...
they used owls
to kill the bats.



Owls
everywhere.

But I forgot...
the thing I
forgot 'is...

...as soon as
the owls left...

...the bats...

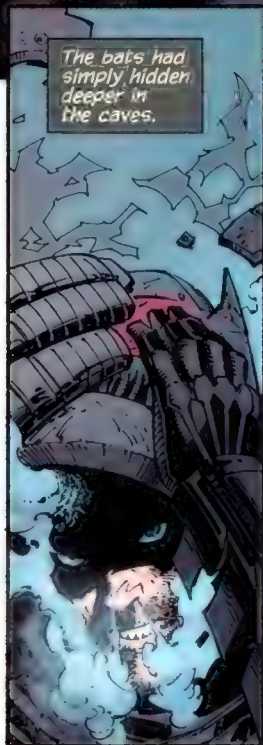
...came back





Yes...

...I remember now.



The bats had simply hidden deeper in the caves.



In the darkest parts, the parts the owls couldn't tolerate.

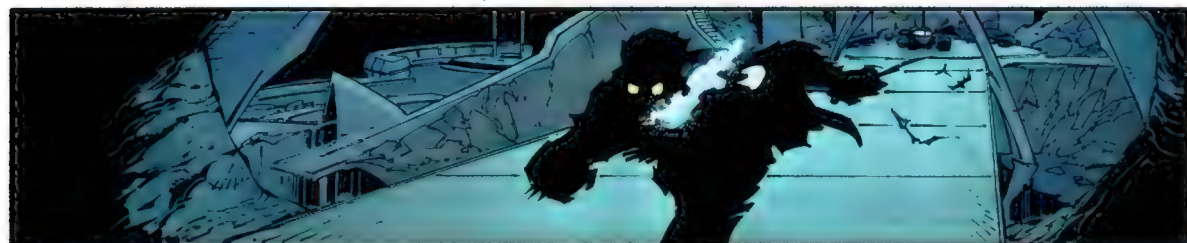
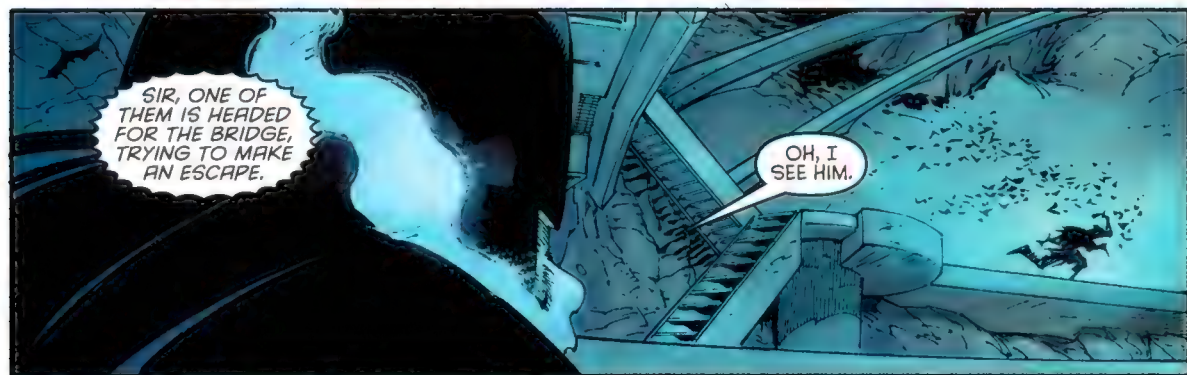


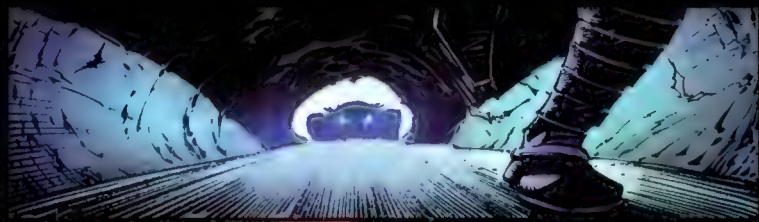
And when the bats came back...



...it was with a vengeance.







AAAACH!



SIR...!

HE'S GOT
A HEALING
FACTOR.

LET HIM
HEAL.

USE
THE COOLANT
I PREPARED
FOR COBB TO
FREEZE THE
TALONS.

YES,
SIR. BUT
YOU MUST
STAY HERE
AND--

THERE'S AN
OWL SYMBOL
IN THE SKY OVER
GOTHAM, ALFRED.
I'M GOING
OUT.



NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 8:36 PM

THE LIST
OF PEOPLE THE
COURT OF OWLS IS
TARGETING...

I'M SENDING
IT TO THE MAIN
CONSOLE. THE NAMES
IN BLUE, THEY'RE THE
ONES THE ALLIES HAVE
ALREADY GONE TO
PROTECT.

AND
THE ONES IN
RED?

I'M AFRAID
FOR THEM IT'S
ALREADY TOO LATE.
THE GREEN NAMES.
THEY'RE THE ONLY
TARGETS STILL
UNACCOUNTED
FOR.

THERE ARE
BARELY ANY GREEN,
ALFRED. JUST
JEREMIAH ARKHAM
AND LINCOLN
MARCH.

"I'M AFRAID THIS NIGHT
LARGELY BELONGS
TO THE OWLS, SIR."

"THE NIGHT'S
NOT OVER YET."

"I'M GOING
TO ARKHAM
ASYLUM FIRST." *

*See DETECTIVE COMICS #9. --Mike

NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 11:02 PM

"AND THEN I'LL
GO AFTER MARCH."

LINCOLN
MARCH!
I'M
HERE TO HELP!
MARCH?!

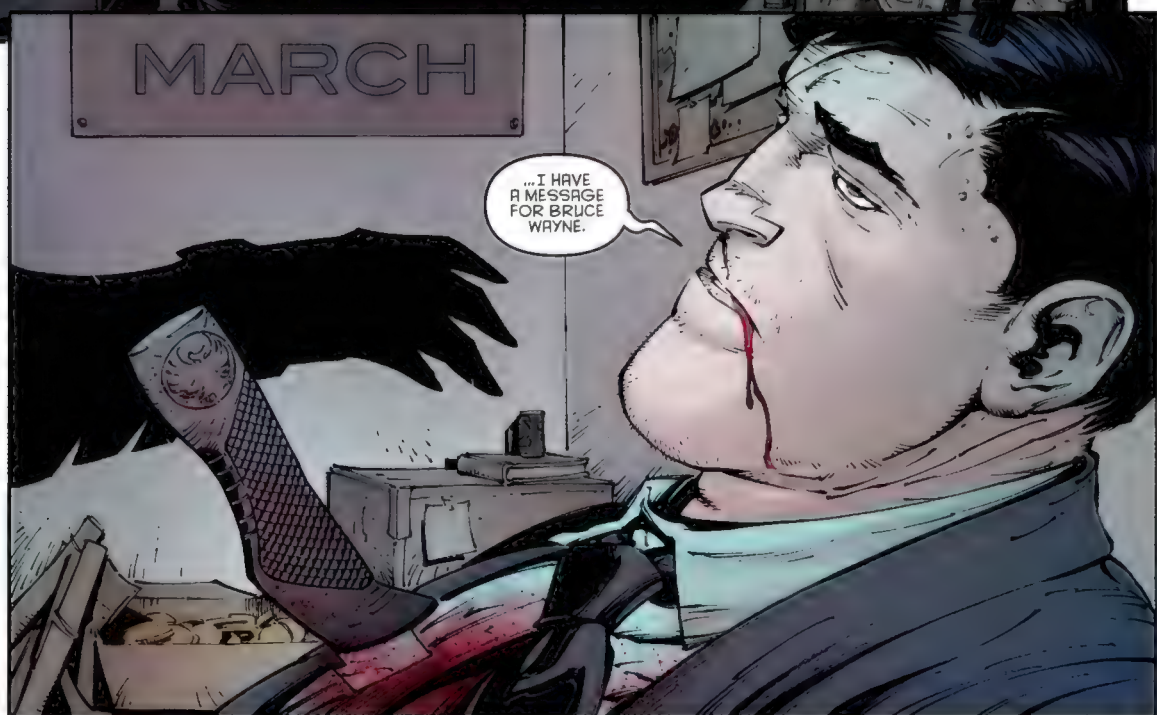


MR. MARCH,
I--

YOU...

...BRUCE
WAYNE...

BLAM





DON'T TALK, MR. MARCH. AN AMBULANCE WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT.

NO... PLEASE. HERE...

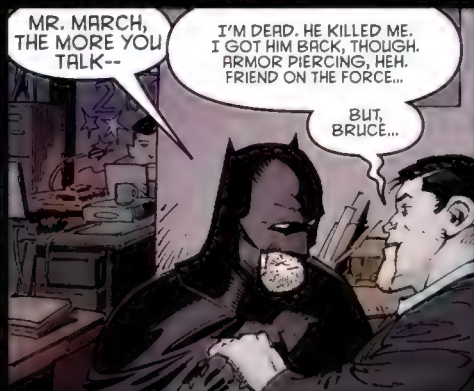


...HERE. TAKE THIS.



THERE ARE THREE NAMES: *3KOFFE*. I TRIED TO FOLLOW THE DONATIONS TO FIGURE IT OUT...IT'S AS CLOSE AS I GOT.

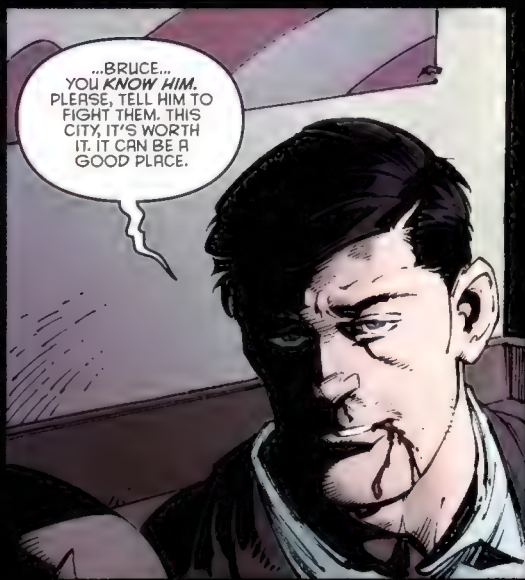
COULD BE ALL THREE OF THEM ARE IN THE COURT. COULD BE *3KOFFE* NONE.



MR. MARCH, THE MORE YOU TALK--

I'M DEAD. HE KILLED ME. I GOT HIM BACK, THOUGH. ARMOR PIERCING, HEH. FRIEND ON THE FORCE...

BUT, BRUCE...



...BRUCE... YOU KNOW HIM. PLEASE, TELL HIM TO FIGHT THEM. THIS CITY, IT'S WORTH IT. IT CAN BE A GOOD PLACE.



REMINDE HIM THAT...A BETTER GOTHAM IS JUST... *3KOFFE*...IS ONE DREAM...



YEARS AGO...

From the desk of
Jarvis Pennyworth:

...shadows move within
Wayne Manor, and I
fear that I may no
longer be safe.

But frightened as I am for
myself, I am more frightened
for you, Alfred.

To My Dear
Son, Alfred...

FOR
ALFRED

Should I not survive
the journey home to
Britain, it is *imperative*
that you read what I
have to say...



You've long known that it is your duty to fulfill my role with the Waynes upon my retirement or passing.

I know you believe that I want this for you.



And I did, Alfred, for a long time, I did. But no longer.

I implore you, Dear Son. If you take only one line from this hurried letter, let it be this...



...never come to this house.



Never.

For you see, there's a secret to the House of Wayne, known only to those who have served the family.

And that secret is this, Alfred...this family, this house, the very ground I now walk is cursed.



If only I had seen it sooner, Alfred. If only I'd understood.



But I was blind.



Or blinded, rather...blinded by the grandeur of the Waynes, by the storied history of their line.



I couldn't see the darker legacy, the shadows behind the portraits.



Or the danger...

...the terrible
danger.



KRACK

I SEE
YOU, JARVIS
PENNYWORTH...



"...AND I'M
COMING FOR
YOU, OLD MAN."



To think I may never
see you again, Alfred.
Never see you laugh or
perform on the stage.
Never see you marry.
Or raise children of
your own.

COME
ON, YOU
BLOODY...

GAKK



It's more than I
can bear. I cannot
tell you, Son, how I
regret not seeing
more of you these
last few years.

Please know
that I thought
of you often.



And in my own mind, in my heart,
I believed that all the effort, all
the time spent serving Martha
and Thomas Wayne and their
young son...



...that all of it
was for you,
Alfred.

For I was convinced
that in doing my best
to serve, to help
in my own way to
improve this home
and this family, I was
making a better
future for you.



Especially when it came
to young Master
Wayne, whom I knew you
would one day serve.

I loved and cared
for him so that he
would one day care
for you.

At least this is
what I believed,
then...



...perhaps I was lying to
myself, though, Alfred.
Perhaps I simply lost
myself in the happiness
of those days. That
young family.

But they were
happy times,
my son. Know
that, too.



For a while,
at least.



I'VE
HAD IT,
THOMAS.



THE MAYOR
HAS SHUT DOWN
ANOTHER FIVE
SCHOOLS,
THAT CORRUPT,
SHORT-
SIGHTED
IDIOT...

...YOU KNOW IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE THE
SCHOOL'S HAVEN'T FIGURED
OUT A WAY TO PAY HIM OFF.
IT'S DISGUSTING.



WELL, HE'LL GET
AN EARFUL THE NEXT
TIME HE COMES
KNOCKING AT OUR
DOOR FOR
FUNDRAISING.



WE NEED TO DO **MORE** THAN THAT, THOMAS. IT'S TIME. YOU KNOW IT, TOO.

I WANT GOTHAM TO BE A PLACE THAT ANY SON OF OURS WOULD BE **PROUD** TO CALL HOME.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, JARVIS? TIME FOR US ALL TO VENTURE OUT OF THE NEST?

A FINE IDEA, MADAM.

How wrong we were, though, my Son...

I hesitate as I write this, because the temptation to blame all that followed on Martha Wayne is incredibly powerful.

And particularly since I am writing this to you, my son, I am ashamed to tell the truth.



You see, what happened to the Waynes--and whatever might happen to me--is entirely my own fault.

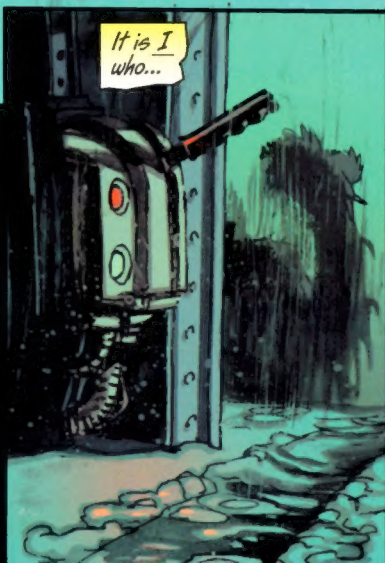


LOCKED?
BUT HOW...



There is the cold hard truth, my boy.

It is *I* who...



NO...



...it is I who
have doomed
us all.

KRAAK

**THE FALL OF THE
HOUSE OF WAYNE** PART 1 OF 3
WRITERS SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV
ART/RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
COLORS DAVE MCCAIG
LETTERS PATRICK BROSSAU
ASSISTANT EDITOR KATIE KUBERT
EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



ew Vertigo App Available Now!

We told you recently about the new DC Entertainment Websites, including VertigoComics.com, and now VERTIGO fans can download a new dedicated app featuring all Vertigo digital titles. The new app, available on the App Store, is free to download and features popular VERTIGO series THE SANDMAN, FABLES, Y: THE LAST MAN, PREACHER, 100 BULLETS, HELLBLAZER, AMERICAN VAMPIRE, THE UNWRITTEN, DMZ, THE INVISIBLES, TRANSMETROPOLITAN, and SWEET TOOTH, among others.

The launch of the app is timed to the release of four new VERTIGO series that debuted in March, including FAIREST by *New York Times* best-selling and award-winning writer Bill Willingham. A spin off of FABLES, the series stars some of the fairest in the land and balances horror, humor and adventure. Each FAIREST storyline will explore the secret histories of one character, from Sleeping Beauty to Rapunzel to Cinderella to Thumbelina to Snow White and more. The first six issue arc drawn by Phil Jimenez (WONDER WOMAN, THE INVISIBLES) follows the misadventures of Briar Rose along with Ali Baba and the Snow Queen.

Also available same day digitally are the following new Vertigo series:

SAUCER COUNTRY #1



SAUCER COUNTRY,

a dark thriller that blends UFO lore and alien abduction with political intrigue, all set in the hauntingly beautiful Southwest written by Paul Cornell (DEMON KNIGHTS, Doctor Who) with art by Ryan Kelly (NEW YORK FIVE).

DOMINIQUE LAVEAU: VOODOO CHILD, a high-octane story set in New Orleans that blends the mortal and supernatural worlds, written by former editor-in-chief of The Source magazine, award-winning author, journalist and TV producer Selwyn Seyfu Hinds, with art by Milestone Media co-founder Denys Cowan (THE QUESTION) and John Floyd with covers by Rafael Grampá.

THE NEW DEADWARDIANS, a murder mystery set among the world of the undead in post-Victorian era London, brought to vivid life by writer Dan Abnett (RESURRECTION MAN) with art by newcomer I. N. J. Culbard (At The Mountains of Madness).



FAIREST #1

"Making all of our digital titles available in one downloadable location provides readers even more accessibility to our vast array of ground breaking stories. What's better than that? I can't wait to get the app on my phone," said Karen Berger, executive editor, VERTIGO. "With four new series having just launched, this is the perfect time for fans to download the VERTIGO app and keep coming back each and every week."

So be sure to check out all these new and exciting offerings from Vertigo and be sure to let us know what you think. Now if you'll excuse me, I have some reading to do!

Be seeing you,

- Ian Sattler, DC Entertainment

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SCAN: HALO
EDIT: THE
PROLETARIAT

